



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **People Magazine Features State Health Department's Babies-at Work Program**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health's babies-at-work program is featured in an article in the current issue of People magazine, according to Loreeta Canton, public information officer for the Department of Health.

Four Department of Health employees were interviewed for the article, and they and their babies were photographed. They are Jessica Gilbertson and her son Benjamin, Alicia Phillips and her daughter Kinlee, Michelle Walker and her daughter Norah, and Shane Stockdill and his son Noah.

"This was an exciting opportunity to showcase how the North Dakota Department of Health values its employees and their families," said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D., M.P.H.T.M. "Knowing that they can bring their babies to work for a few months helps new parents transition back into the workplace after a birth. Plus, seeing babies at work with their parents brightens the day for many of us."

The Department of Health's babies-at-work program was instituted in 1996. Since then, more than 40 babies have joined their parents at work.

To participate in the program, a department employee receives approval from his or her supervisor and provides all needed supplies, including cribs, strollers, etc. Although some employees cannot bring their babies to work because the job duties and work schedules for some positions will not accommodate it, most parents are approved for the program. A baby can attend work with his or her parents until the child is 6-months-old.

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*Visit the health department home page at [www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov).*

The issue of People magazine featuring the babies-at-work program is on sale now.

For more information, contact Loreeta Canton or Stacy Eberl, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2372.

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*Please note: A photograph of the Department of Health parents and their babies, along with the People magazine photographer, is available for downloading on the Department of Health Press Room website at [www.ndhan.gov/media/media/](http://www.ndhan.gov/media/media/).*

*Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at [www.nddohpressroom.gov](http://www.nddohpressroom.gov).*